

fundraisers, and being with his American Legion Riders Chapter 509. He volunteered his time handing out blankets to veterans during the holidays and participated in many funeral ceremonies in the Honor Guard, specifically during the pandemic. Mary was always by his side at the events, with a smile on her face and chatting with veterans and their families. They were both friendly and helpful to everyone and ready to assist when needed.

Jim is survived by his wife of 40 years, Mary; his son; daughter-in-law, his son-in-law, 12 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren. Jim's wonderful daughter, Vickie, passed away in 2020. He leaves behind many friends including his brothers and sisters of the Marine Corps.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the life of Jim Leyser. I join his family and friends in the veteran community in celebrating his life and continuous service to others.

MARIA PROCOPIO

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, recently, I had the pleasure of attending Maria Procopio's 100th birthday party. Maria has been a Vineland resident for 62 years. She was born in November of 1921 in the town of Montauro, Italy. In 1938, Maria married Giovanni Procopio and they immigrated to the United States in March of 1959. Maria and Giovanni have eight children, eleven grandchildren, and ten great grandchildren. On November 22, 2021, the Mayor of Vineland, Anthony Fanucci, recognized and celebrated the 100th birthday and longevity of Maria's life. I hope that Maria had a great birthday and it was an honor to be able to attend her birthday party. God Bless Maria, and God Bless our America.

RECOGNITION OF THE COTULLA-LA SALLE COUNTY AIRPORT'S NEW AIRPORT TERMINAL GRAND OPENING

HON. TONY GONZALES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2021

Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the leadership and community of La Salle County and the city of Cotulla on the grand opening of the new airport terminal, which is happening today in my district. I especially want to recognize County Judge Joel Rodriguez Jr., Cotulla Mayor Jose Javier Garcia, Airport Manager E.T. Page, and members of the La Salle County Commissioners Court and Cotulla City Council for all the work that has gone into bringing today to fruition.

The Airport has a rich history since its beginning in 1947, when it was constructed to serve as an emergency airfield for military training aircraft in the area. The airport has truly become an area magnet for economic

growth and in 2016, the Cotulla airport was even recognized as the TxDOT-Aviation Airport of the Year.

With today's ribbon cutting, Cotulla-La Salle County Airport (KCOT) has been set up for many years of success in the future. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the airport's success and thank them for all the work they do every day in south Texas.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF PAM MARPHIS

HON. STEVE SCALISE

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2021

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Pam Marphis, a selfless public servant and one of the longest-serving staffers in my office.

Pam's 22 years working in Congress began with then-Representative David Vitter in 1999, then with Bobby Jindal, and then with my office when I won a special election in 2008.

Pam Marphis has helped thousands of constituents with their casework over the course of her career and she has been a rock star in so many ways.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Pam tirelessly helped Louisiana families navigate the FEMA bureaucracy so that they could get the help they needed to rebuild their homes and communities that were devastated.

When there was a child in Honduras needing heart surgery, Pam worked with the State Department to get that child to a hospital in Louisiana.

And as the world began to shut down in the beginning of this pandemic, Pam worked round-the-clock to get U.S. citizens back home.

I thank Pam, for her faithful service to our country. Her decades of experience will be sorely missed. Jennifer and I wish Pam and Gary the best in this next chapter of their lives.

HONORING HEARD, McELROY AND VESTAL'S 75 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. MIKE JOHNSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2021

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my good friends and community leaders who have been serving my hometown of Shreveport for a remarkable 75 years.

The CPA firm—Heard, McElroy and Vestal—has been an integral part of our community since 1946. In fact, founding partner Charles McElroy served as one of the first Chairmen of the Louisiana Certified Public Accountants. From the very beginning, the firm has established itself as a "pillar of trust, integrity and competence." Their firm is now one of the largest public accounting firms in Northwest Louisiana.

This firm and its over 100 employees have worked faithfully for the people of Louisiana every day and have continued to be a cornerstone for our region. We are blessed to have

their mission of accounting excellence and commitment to integrity as a part of our community.

I thank my friends for serving so well for all these years, and happy 75th anniversary.

HONORING GARY MANN ON HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2021

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding Hoosier, Gary Mann, as he celebrates his 80th birthday on December 13, 2021. Truly a giant in Elkhart, Indiana, Gary has demonstrated great leadership, excellence, and service throughout this life.

Gary, who graduated from Elkhart High School in the Class of 1959, was an exceptional student athlete. During his high school career, he earned two varsity letters each in football, baseball, and basketball. As a basketball player, Gary helped the Blazers reach the IHSAA state finals and, as a senior, was part of the Elkhart High School team that reached the sectional championship.

While he was a tremendous athlete across the board, Gary truly excelled on the football field. He rarely left the field during his football career, playing punter, tight end on offense, and safety on defense. Gary led the Blue Blazers in interceptions as a senior and was named MVP that year.

Following his storied high school sports career, Gary earned a full-ride scholarship to play football at Arizona State. Later, he earned a teaching degree from Ball State University and returned home to Elkhart County to teach and coach.

In the classroom, Gary taught generations of students as a history teacher at West Side Middle School. Additionally, he served as a longtime coach across the county. His tenures spanned ten years as Elkhart Memorial High School varsity football assistant, twelve years as Elkhart Central High School varsity football assistant, two years as Elkhart High School varsity wrestling assistant, nine years as West Side Middle School freshman football coach, and five years as the West Side Middle School seventh grade football, wrestling, and track coach.

For decades, Gary has been a respected mentor, coach, community leader, and role model to hundreds of young adults—both on and off the field. In recognition of his amazing legacy, Gary was inducted into the Elkhart County Sports Hall of Fame in 2012.

At home and across Elkhart County, he is well known for his support, guidance, encouragement, and work ethic that has motivated his family and so many other Hoosiers. Gary and his wife, Ann, were married in 1962 and have been blessed with two children, five grandchildren, and three great-granddaughters.

As Gary celebrates this incredible milestone, it is my privilege to honor him for his many accomplishments and—most importantly—his devoted service to the Hoosiers of Elkhart County. I wish Gary a happy birthday, and continued health and happiness in the years to come.